

**KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 14, 2017

The Kansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened via teleconference on Friday April 14, 2017 to discuss a proposed study topic of civil rights and educational funding in the state.

Dr. Mildred Edwards chaired the meeting and performed the roll call of members present. This meeting was recorded and open to the public from 1:00 PM to 2:25 PM CST.

Committee members present:

1. Edwards, Mildred (Chair)
2. Perucca, Kirk (Vice Chair)
3. Brien, Russell
4. Dodd, Mark
5. Gieber, Steven
6. Hodgesmith, Martha
7. Holt, Ronald
8. Lambert, Kristy

Committee Members Absent:

1. Unoke, Ewa
2. Vega, Gabriela
3. Ng, Jennifer
4. Nolan, Phyllis

USCCR staff present:

1. Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)
2. Sanders, Corrine

Members of the public present:

1. Mendoza, Lauren
2. Woods, Patrick
3. Watson, Randy

Meeting Notes/Decisions Made

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
 - a. The Chair provided the welcome and verified a quorum of Committee members present.
- II. Approval of Minutes: January 20, 2017
 - a. Kristy Lambert moved to approve the Committee meeting minutes from January 20, 2017, as drafted (attached)
 - b. Russell Brien seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
- III. Civil Rights and Educational Funding in Kansas:
 - a. Speakers: the following individuals shared their perspective with the Committee on civil rights concerns related to educational funding in Kansas (both adequacy and equity)
 - i. Randy Watson, Kansas State Department of Education Commissioner

- ii. Lauren Mendoza, Principal Research Analyst, Legislative Research Department
 - iii. Patrick Woods, USD 501 Board Chairman
 - b. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (USDOE, OCR) was invited to participate in the discussion, though no speakers were available.
 - i. The Committee expressed its disappointment that the Office of Civil Rights was unable to participate.
 - ii. The office will be invited to participate again during the next Committee meeting in June 2017 (USCCR staff to reach out/follow up)
 - c. Following each speaker, Committee members were invited to ask questions and engage in discussion with the speakers.
 - d. A transcript of the discussion will be available within 30 days following the meeting and included in meeting records.
 - e. The Committee determined to take up educational funding as their next topic of civil rights study in Kansas, and requested USCCR staff to draft a project proposal for the Committee's discussion and review at the next meeting.
 - f. If additional revisions to the draft proposal are necessary based on the information provided by the USDOE OCR, the proposal may be modified accordingly.
- IV. Public Comment
- a. At the conclusion of the meeting, all public lines were opened for questions or comments. No public comment was received.
- V. Future Plans and Actions
- a. USCCR staff will poll Committee members to determine availability for the next meeting, to take place in June 2017
- VI. Adjournment
- a. Meeting adjourned 2:25pm CST